

Investment Scams

Money

The patterns behind almost every investment fraud.

If several of these are present, stop.

Red flags

Guaranteed or 'risk-free' high returns

Pressure to decide immediately

Unregistered firm or adviser

Complex strategy that cannot be explained simply

Contact came to you, unsolicited

Difficulty withdrawing money

Common forms

Ponzi — early payouts from later deposits

Pump and dump

Fake celebrity endorsements

Romance and 'pig butchering' scams

Recovery scams targeting previous victims

Check

The regulator's register

That the firm's details match exactly

That you can withdraw a small amount first

Clone firms copy a real company's details with one changed digit.
Verify contact details from the regulator, not from the approach.